15.

OBSERVATIONS

ON

Mr. ASGILL's Brief Anſwer

TO A

Brief State of the Queſtion between the printed and painted Callicoes, &c.

WHEREIN

His Falſities and Sophiſtry are laid open.

By CLAUDIUS REY, a Weaver.

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OBSERVATIONS

ON

Mr. *Asgill*'s Brief Answer

TO A

Brief State of the Question, &c.

ABOUT twenty Years ago the Trading Part of this Nation was in as miserable a Condition, through the *East India* Commodities, (*though then in time of Peace*,) as 'tis now through the printed Callicoes and Linnens.

It may be remember'd, that no less a Man than Dr. *Davenant* took up the Dispute on behalf of the *East India Company* against the

Weavers, and the other Trades which depend thereon; as the learned Mr. *Aſgill* doth at this preſent time.

And as the former made uſe of all his Rhetorick, to find out ſome ſpurious and pretended Cauſes, for the want of Trade at that Time, in order to delude the Nation, and divert it from applying a proper Remedy; ſo likewiſe, the latter hath compaſs'd Sea and Land, not only to find out ſome frivolous Cauſes to account for the Badneſs of Trade; but hath alſo groſly miſrepreſented every Thing, and more particularly the moſt famous Manufacturies of this Kingdom, and magnified thoſe which are but inſignificant in Compariſon of them.

But tho' Mr. *Aſgill* ſeems to have a better Plea than his Predeceſſor had, by Reaſon that there is ſome Parts of our Manufactury mixed with thoſe Commodities he pleads for; yet he ought to know, that the Reaſon why our Legiſlators did prohibit thoſe *India Goods* at that time, was not becauſe they were wholly of the Manufactury of *India*; but becauſe *they took away the Labour of the People, and that many Manufacturers became exceſſively burdenſome to their reſpective Pariſhes, and others were compelled to ſeek for Employment in foreign Parts.* Now, I ſay, if the

the Conſumption of any Commodity whatſoever cauſes the very ſame Evil and Detriment, as in Fact the wearing of printed Callicoes and Linnens do: Then, in Strictneſs of Reaſon, there ought to be the ſame Remedy apply'd to the latter, as there was to the former. But,

As all Mr. *Aſgill*'s Book is grounded on two Arguments only, which are in his two Compariſons, as he calls them,

1. *Between the Silks and the Callicoes,*
2. *Between the Silks and the Linnens,* page 8.

Therefore I'll confine my ſelf to unfold the artful Sophiſtry of theſe his two main Arguments, the reſt being but Trifles and Cavils, which muſt fall of themſelves after their only Baſis is entirely deſtroyed, as will demonſtratively appear in the following Pages.

This ingenious Gentleman, in order to ſhew that neither the printed and painted Callicoes, nor the printed and ſtained Linnens, are the Cauſe of the Badneſs of the Weaving Trade, hath divided, with a great deal of Art, the Weaving Trade, for Womens Garments, into two Branches, *viz.* The Silk Manufactury, and the Woollen Manufactury. And then,

He compares the Silks with the Callicoes, as being both Manufactured here, *p.* 8. which is a very groſs Miſrepreſentation, as I ſhall ſhew preſently.

'The Silks, *ſay he*, now Manufactured in '*England* are firſt imported from *Turky*, *In*-'*dia*, *China*, or *Italy*. Thoſe from *Turkey*, '*India*, and *China*, are for the moſt Part 'imported Raw, and ſo are thrown and 'woven here. But ſome leſs Parts from 'thence, and all thoſe from *Italy*, are ready 'thrown. Though this is not altogether fairly ſtated, as having omitted firſt of all the *winding* of the Raw Silk, as likewiſe the *dying* it after 'tis thrown, and then winding it again: Yet I ſhall paſs it by, without any any other Obſervation. After which he ſtates immediately his ſuppoſed Callicoe Manufactury; as follows.

'The Cotton, of which Callicoes are now 'made in *England*, is imported from our 'Plantations in *America* in the Wool, and ſo 'is Spun and Woven here. The REST 'of the Callicoes are imported by the *Eaſt* '*India Company* from *India* in White Cloath, 'and ſo are uſed here either White, as they 'come over, or as afterwards printed here.

By this Compariſon, this worthy Gentleman wou'd fain have the World to underſtand,

ſtand, that the Bulk of Callicoes is actually of our own Make, much upon the ſame Foot, if not on a Better (ſee his Concluſion on this Compariſon;) as the Silks are. This is ſo far from being true, that, according to the beſt Information I can come at, there never was in this whole Kingdom Ten Looms of theſe Callicoes: And theſe ſo very coarſe, that when they are printed, they are not Sold for above Two Shillings and Four Pence *per yard.* And conſequently cannot interfere with our Silks. Yet our Author ſpeaks of them as a very conſiderable Manufactury, and compares it with no leſs than that of the Silks, which is known at leaſt to employ Twelve Thouſand Looms. And then he goes on to ſpeak of the *India Callicoes* as a mere Trifle, ſaying, *the* REST (which is, in the Senſe he ſpeaks of, but very inſignificant) *of the Callicoes are imported by the* Eaſt-India *Company*, &c.

Thus this Gentleman endeavours to impoſe upon the Nation, after he himſelf had been impoſed upon by his Patrons.

And therefore every thing, which he infers from this Compariſon, muſt fall to the Ground, as being without foundation.

What this Author ſays concerning *India* Callicoes, amounts to this, *viz.* that *the prime*

Coſt

Coſt of every Yard of India *Callicoe* is but *Six Pence*; *and the Crown, and* SUBJECTS, *of* Great Britain, *gain* 2 s. 6 d. *for every Yard of theſe Callicoes imported from* India, *here.* To which I anſwer, that this Gentleman miſtakes the Queſtion entirely; becauſe the Queſtion is *not* what ſome *Subjects* may *gain* of their Fellow *Subjects*; (For, all the World knows very well, that a pernicious and ruinous Trade to a Nation may be carried on to the Advantage of ſome particular *Subjects.* But the proper *Queſtion* is what the NATION GAINS or LOOSES by theſe *India Callicoes.*

This then being the *Queſtion*, our Author hath been ſo Civil, though not deſignedly, to furniſh us with an Anſwer *p.* 13. viz. *that the prime Coſt of all white Callicoes, Yearly imported from* India, *and legally conſumed in* Great Britain, *amounts to* 40000. l. after the rate of 6 *d. per yard*, as he informs us *p.* 8. Which Sum of 40000 *l.* according to his own Account, is wholly loſt to the Nation. For though he ſays, *p.* 18. that ‘ The *Eaſt-India* ‘ *Company*, who Import the Callicoes from ‘ thence ſtand obliged to Export from hence ‘ *Ten per. Cent.* of all their Exportation in ‘ *Engliſh* Goods: Yet he allows in the ſame page that thoſe *Indians* take none of them.

So

So that 'tis very plain, that the *Eaſt-India Company* Export theſe *Engliſh* Goods to thoſe Parts, where our Merchants are not debarred from trading; and conſequently, renders this the ſame Thing to the Nation, as if the *Eaſt India Company* exported none. And thus,

According even to this Gentleman, this Sum of 40000 *l.* is loſt and ſunk to the Nation; notwithſtanding ſome *Subjects* may be conſiderable *Gainers* thereby.

But if we ſuppoſe, as we may very juſtly, that double that Quantity is run and ſmugled upon us; then the Loſs to this Nation muſt be at leaſt 120000 *l.* in neat Bullion; beſides the Loſs that muſt accrue from about 50000 People being deprived of their Labour and Subſiſtance thereby. (*N. B.* by the Conſumption of Callicoes only.)

This is therefore the Channel that drains our Coin, and our Bullion; and conſequently 'tis no wonder to ſee the Price of Silver riſe 3 or 4 *per Cent.* every time the *Eaſt-India* Company fit out their Ships. Which is properly ſending our VITALS to the farthermoſt Parts of the World, to *purchaſe Miſery and Beggary*, in the Literal Senſe, for our poor working People; and thereby deprive them of thoſe Neceſſaries for Life, with which the good Providence of God hath in

a more peculiar Manner bleſs'd this Country, than moſt others.

This Gentleman maintains an Hypotheſis which is in it ſelf ſo abſurd and inconſiſtent, that nothing in the World can be more ſo. He wou'd not only inſinuate throughout his Book, and all his *Britiſh Merchants*, that Callicoes do not hinder the Silk and Woollen Manufacturies; but aſſerts it in expreſs Words (*viz*) *For it is not the printed Callicoes or Linnens, that hinder the Manufactury of Raw Silk, but the great Quantities* of Foreign Silks, *p.* 12. And then he concludes thus: *But as the printed Callicoes, or Linnens, are no Cauſe of this, ſo the prohibiting of them would be no Remedy*, p. 13. He ſays the very ſame as to the Manufactury of Wooll, as follows. 'That the printed Callicoes (*againſt which* 'the Complaint is made) not being worn 'or uſed for the ſame Purpoſes with the 'Woollen Manufactury, *do not* therefore *in-* 'terfere with *Them*, nor ought to be ſuppreſ- 'ſed in favour of them, *p.* 20.' So that, according to this Gentleman's Hypotheſis, our Women, who are now clothed with printed Callicoes, formerly went in the Streets without any Clothes, that is, without Gowns and Petticoats.

But it ſeems, that theſe palpable Falſhoods and Inconſiſtencies have thrown this learned Gentleman into ſuch Confuſion, that he did not know what he was Writing; elſe he could never have contradicted himſelf ſo manifeſtly as he has done upon this very Thing: For he allows, *p.* 15. that *Callicoes* do *interfere* with Silks, which is allowing the ſame thing he had abſolutely denied in *p.* 12. But to return to Foreign Silks.

If this Author was ask'd the Reaſon why thoſe foreign Silks hinder our Silk Manufactury? His Anſwer doubtleſs wou'd be, 'Becauſe ſo much 'as are conſumed of thoſe foreign Silks, juſt ſo 'much of our own Silks are leſs conſumed. And ſo ſay the Weavers with reſpect to the Callicoes, that ſo much as is conſumed of them, juſt ſo much of their Manufacturies are leſs conſumed.

And 'tis very obſervable, that it is upon this very Argument, that in *p.* 16, he ſays, that 'The Perſecution in *France* had driven out from 'thence into *England*, and other Countries, Multi-'tudes of Silk Manufacturers: Who ſetting up 'the ſame Trades there, Thoſe Countries were '*ſupply'd* at Home with ſuch Silks, as they *before* '*bought* from *France*'.

But, if the Weavers, either in *England*, or in *France*, argue in the ſame Manner, and ſay that the Importers of Callicoes, and the Callicoe Printers *have ſet up a Trade which ſupplies our Women with Printed Callicoes and Linnens to be uſed in the ſtead of our own Manufacturies both of Wooll and Silk, as they before us'd to be ſupplied with*: Then, *This is*,

according to this learn'd Gentleman, all a *Clamour* and *Miſtaken Pretences*, p. 16. *and throwing Stones againſt the printed Callicoes*, &c. *and is as oblique a Calumny, as that of his Seamen's Rats*, &c. *p.* 12, 13.

But if this Gentleman would hearken to good Argument; as I hope he will when he ſees that his Falacy is ſeen thro'; and that he has been ſo much impos'd upon, by his Clients: Then he wou'd ſoon acquieſce to theſe plain Reaſons. As I will on my Part agree with him in all that is Reaſonable: Accordingly I agree that thoſe foreign Silks, are ſo far an Evil to the Silk Manufacturers, as to hinder the Silk Manufactury of the like quantity. So far it is an Evil, and no farther. And I hope, that this Gentleman in his turn will be ſo good as to acknowledge, that other foreign Commodities alſo are ſo far an Evil, as they hinder the like quantity of our own Manufactury. For Example,

Let us ſuppoſe, on the one Hand, that there are 12000 Gowns and Petticoats of foreign Silks conſumed Yearly among us, whether Legally imported or ſmugled; which I think is a great deal more than what really are.

On the other Hand, let us ſuppoſe that there are but 600000 Callicoe Gowns and Petticoats conſumed yearly among us; which I think alſo to be leſs than the Number really is. Yet,

This will ſhew demonſtratively that the Evil cauſed by the Callicoes, is Fifty Times greater, than the Evil cauſed by foreign Silks, whether legally im-

imported, or ſmugled. And conſequently, the firſt of theſe Evils is inſignificant, in Compariſon of the latter.

Therefore the wearing of printed or painted Callicoes and Linnens is the CHIEF and PRINCIPAL *Cauſe* of the Exceſſive Badneſs of the Weaving Trade.

But, as this Gentleman, in *The Britiſh Merchant* N°. 3. calls *for the Name of this or that particular ſort of Woollen Stuffs that Callicoes interfere with*; I anſwer, that Thoſe Women which were formerly clothed with *Woorſted Damasks*, *Plain* and *Flower'd Ruſſels*, and *Flower'd Calimancoes*, and *Fine Stuffs* from 15 *d.* to 20 *d.* per Yard (theſe were all *Woollen Stuffs*) beſides thoſe Half-Silk and Half-Woorſted, ſuch as *Flower'd Grezates*, *Woorſted Satinets*, &c. are now generally clothed with the cheapeſt Callicoes, and with the beſt of printed Linnens. Which is ſo true in Fact, that theſe conſiderable Branches of the Weaving Trade are almoſt extinct, by the wearing of theſe printed Callicoes, and Linnens.

I come now to conſider our Author's Second Compariſon, *between the Silks and the Linnens*, as he calls it *p.* 8. and 11. though in Reality 'tis *between the Woollen and the Linnen*. His Words are theſe, *viz.*

'The *Linnens* printed here, are all made in *Great* '*Britain* or *Ireland*; (except ſome few imported from '*Germany*, which are printed for Handkerchiefs only) '—— And therefore are AS MUCH a Staple 'Commodity and Home Manufacture as the 'WOOLLENS. And —— are not therefore

'to be *ſuppreſſed* as damaging the Manufacturies of 'WOOLL or Silks. The Linnens employing 'THE *Hands* of the Poor in Spinning and Weaving, 'as well as the *Wooll* or Silks.

To which I anſwer, that this *Compariſon* is alſo greatly miſrepreſented, and with abundance of Art, as will evidently appear by the following Obſervations, *viz.*

1. He ſays, *the Linnens printed here are* A L L *made in* Great Britain *or* Ireland: Though this might very well be diſputed, I ſhall paſs it by now for brevity Sake; yet it cannot follow from *the Linnens being made here, that they are* A S M U C H *a Staple* A S *the Woollens*; Becauſe on the one Hand 'tis well known that the Flax, of which our Linnens are made, is not all of our own Growth, but that abundance is imported from abroad; whereas on the other, A L L the Wooll, which is uſed in our Woollen Stuffs for Women's Garments, I S of our own Growth: Therefore this Gentleman ought not only to croſs out the *Adverb*, AS MUCH, but ought alſo to cenſure his Clients for having thus impoſed upon him.

But as his Propoſition is falſe, ſo the Conſequence drawn from thence cannot be good.

2. Beſides the Falſity of the Argument, there is another groſs Inſinuation equally falſe and pernicious, in his Second Conſequence, *viz*, That the Weavers demand no leſs than a total *Suppreſſion* of the Linnen Manufacturies; hear his own Words. *And the Linnens therefore are not to be* S U P P R E S S E D *as damaging the Manufacturies of Wooll*, &c

For

For what doth this *Gentleman*, or his Patrons, mean by this infinitive Paſſive *to be* ſuppreſſed? Do the *Weavers* demand *the Linnens to be demoliſhed or ſuppreſſed?* Do they ask, that the uſe of Linnens ſhou'd be prohibited for *Sheeting*, *Shifting*, *Table-Cloths*, *Napkins*, *ſwadling Clothes for young Babes*, *Frocks* for Children, *Aprons*, both for Men and Women, and for many other *neceſſary Uſes* in Families; as alſo, for *Frocks* for *Soap-Boilers*, *Chandlers*, *Butchers*, *Waggonners*, and many other Tradeſmen, whoſe Buſineſs *requires* ſuch upper *Garments*? For all which Uſes there is above double the Quantity conſumed in theſe Two Iſlands, than there is made in all the Three Kingdoms. And is it not as clear as the Sun at Noon Day, that what the Weavers ask, is only the ſuppreſſing or prohibiting the Wearing of printed and painted Callicoes, and printed and ſtained Linnens; or, as this Gentleman pretends to foretel, both the *Abjectives* and *Subſtantives* themſelves, for Women's Garments, that is, for *Gowns* and *Petticoats*?

Notwithſtanding that this is as plain as Words can expreſs; yet we ſee, that this Gentleman and his Patrons have the Aſſurance to inſinuate falſly that the Weavers ask for ſo abſurd a Thing as a Total Suppreſſion of the Linnen Manufacturies. Ought not theſe Men, therefore, to bluſh for Shame, for endeavouring to impoſe ſuch palpable Falſities and Abſurdities upon ſo wiſe and ſo penetrating a Nation as this is?

3. As this whole Argument is artfully crouded with Falſities, and Miſrepreſentations; ſo with the

ſame

ſame dexterity he wou'd fain inſinuate that the Manufactury of Linnens employs as many Hands, as thoſe of Wooll, or Silks: For, he ſays, 'the 'Linnens employ the Hands of the POOR in 'Spinning and Weaving, as well as the Wooll or 'Silks.' Which is very True: But nothing to the purpoſe. For the proper Queſtion is whether the Linnens employ as MANY HANDS as the Woollen does. But to proceed,

Let us ſuppoſe, for Argument ſake, that the Linnen Manufactury, as well as that of Wooll, were both equally Staple, *i. e.* the Growth and Manufacturies of this Nation: And that both were incompatible together, ſo that either the one or the other muſt be deſtroy'd.

Upon this Suppoſition, The COMMON GOOD of the *Whole Body Politick* muſt intervene, as the GRAND BASIS of all National *Laws*, and give the preference to That Manufactury, of the Two, which ſhould be moſt Eſſential to the true Intereſt and Welfare of the whole Nation.

Accordingly it wou'd appear, that the Linnen Manufactury is almoſt inſignificant, in compariſon to that of Wooll, both with reſpect to the Number of Hands they employ, and to the Encouragement of our Navigation: Which are the Two main Supports of our Strength and Grandeur.

It wou'd appear alſo, that in prefering the Manufactury of *Wooll*, to that of *Linnen*, we might enjoy for EVER this *famous* and *advantageous* Manufactury, it not being in the Power of the *whole* Uni-

Univerſe to interfere with us in the Woollen Commodities.

Whereas in the Manufactury of Linnen, we ſhou'd be continually perplex'd, it being in the Power of all our Neighbours to interfere with us in the Linnen Goods.

But as this is not the Caſe; ſo 'tis needleſs to go any further upon this Suppoſition.

For we may be certain by our former Experience that half of the People in the Three Nations conſumes more Linnen, beſides thoſe printed or ſtained, than there is made in the Two Iſlands.

Therefore, the Linnen Manufacturies of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* may very well be encouraged, notwithſtanding any Prohibition of printed or ſtained Linnens for wearing Garments.

But as this Champion for printed and ſtained Linnens, inſiſts upon this Article; ſo it muſt be left to the great Wiſdom of our Legiſlators to decide it.

Of whom I humbly beg leave, to lay down the Conſequences which I apprehend will follow on either Side of the Queſtion; as alſo the Reaſons which ſhew that the following Conſequences, under their reſpective Suppoſitions, are unavoidable.

Firſt, if the printed and ſtained Linnens are allowed to be worn, then I think it will naturally follow,

1. That vaſt Quantities of Linnen, both White and Printed, will be poured in upon us from all Parts; which Miſchief will be covered under the ſpe-

ſpecious Pretence of encouraging our own Linnen Manufacturies.

2. The Linnen Printers would ſoon improve their Art to that Degree, as to become almoſt as pernicious to both the Woollen and Silk Manufacturies, as the Callicoes and Linnens are at preſent.

3. The intire Ruin and Loſs of our Manufacturies of Woollen Stuffs for Womens Wear; as is already the Caſe of ſome of them, *viz. Woorſted Damasks, Flower'd Ruſſels, and Flower'd Callimancoes*, &c. Whereby our beſt Manufacturers will be forced to ſeek for Employment in foreign Parts; while their Families, and the meaneſt ſort of Workmen, muſt be maintained here by their reſpective Pariſhes; as is already the Caſe at *London, Norwich, Canterbury*, and elſewhere.

4. That our *Wooll* muſt be carried, and run out of the Nation, to thoſe People who need not be told what to do with it: For, 'tis very reaſonable to ſuppoſe that our *Farmers* and *Wooll-Staplers* will ſeek for a Market where 'twill be to be had, rather than ſee their Wooll rot upon their Hands, or have little or nothing for it. This appears alſo to be our preſent Caſe.

5. That ſeveral hundred thouſands of poor People will be deprived of their Employment, only in the Woollen Stuffway for Womens Wear; and that even without doing any Service to our own Linnen Manufacturies, as I have ſhewn already.

6. and Laſtly, That the preſent Evil will not at all be removed, but perhaps will be much greater

in

in a very few Years; becauſe, though ſome of the beſt Gentry ſhould leave off theſe printed Commodities, yet it would ſpread much more in Proportion among the common Sort; and that on a much better Foundation than Callicoes are at preſent, that is, on the ſpecious Pretence of encouraging our own Linnen Manufacturies. But,

Secondly, If the wearing of both the printed and painted Callicoes, and printed and ſtained Linnens, are prohibited; then I humbly conceive the natural Conſequence will be,

1. That all our Woollen Manufacturies will not only be reſtored to their former flouriſhing Condition, but they will alſo very much increaſe; whereby all our Poor, Old and Young, will be employed in both City and Country; and conſequently the Pariſhes will be eas'd of abundance of Penſioners, and other accidental Poor; and thoſe who ſhall be incapacitated to do any Manner of Work, will be better provided for.

2. That many of the ableſt Manufacturers in foreign Parts, will be encouraged thereby to come and ſettle among us; as has been the Caſe, in ſeveral of the preceding Reigns.

3. That our Wooll will bear a reaſonable Price at Home; and conſequently our Farmers and Wooll-Staplers not be forced to run the Risk of carrying and ſmugling their Wooll beyond the Seas; which will effectually incapacitate Foreigners from being our Rivals in the Exportation of our Woollen Commodities Abroad.

4. That our Farmers and Graſiers will have a better Market for all their Commodities, as Cattle, Hay, Corn, *&c.* All Handicraft Trades will be abundantly the better, and every Workman will be employ'd. The Merchants, and Shop-Keepers, will have a better Sale, and a quicker Return for their ſeveral Commodities. And conſequently,

5. The Eſtates of our Noblemen, Gentlemen, and other landed Men, will be not only more ſecure, but will alſo very much improve.

6. And laſtly, The King's Revenues will not only conſiderably increaſe, but will alſo add much Luſtre to his Glory, and Strength to his Power. In ſhort, every individual Member of the whole Body Politick will find his reſpective Account herein.

I humbly beg leave alſo, to offer ſome Reaſons to ſhew, that theſe Conſequences, under their reſpective Suppoſitions, are unavoidable.

But as no Reaſon can have ſo much Weight, as former and parallel Precedents; ſo likewiſe I ſhall give none but what are grounded upon *known Facts*.

1. Before This Nation was bleſſed with Manufacturies, it was but weak and mean; and conſequently defenceleſs: For, our Ancient Hiſtories are crowded with the diſmal Accounts of the Nation being ravaged, plundered, nay even conquer'd by the *Romans*, *Scots*, *Danes*, *Normans*, *Saxons*, &c. But ſince *England* has been bleſſed with Manufacturies, no Power has attempted to inſult our Coaſt, or invade us, but what have found juſt Cauſe to repent it.

2. And as Theſe Manufacturies have increaſed, and flouriſhed; the Strength and Grandeur of the Nation hath increaſed in proportion. Witneſs our renowned *Queen Elizabeth*, who, after ſhe had given a ſecure *Aſylum* to Multitudes of perſecuted Manufacturers, reduc'd the exorbitant Power of *Spain*.

3. The landed Intereſt riſes or falls, in proportion as our Trade and Commerce increaſes or diminiſhes. For Example. In King *Charles* the 2d's Reign, ſo good a Law was made for encouraging our *Silk Manufacturies*, as to prohibit all *French* wrought Silks, under the Penalty of being burn'd. Which good Law cauſed ſeveral Manufacturing Towns to be full of People. And conſequently, raiſed the Rents. Which, I ſuppoſe, encouraged the *Eaſt-India Company* to Import from *Perſia*, *China* and *Eaſt-India*, vaſt Quantities of Wrought Silks, *Bengals and Stuffs* mixed with *Silk* or *Herba*; as alſo vaſt Quantities of Callicoes, printed and painted. This Flood of foreign Commodities ſoon laid waſte all the Advantages which had flown from that good Law; theſe Manufacturing Towns ſoon became depopulated, and the Pariſhes exceſſively burdened with Poor, as is expreſs'd in the Preamble of an Act of Parliament, intituled *An Act for the more Effectual Employing the Poor, by encouraging the Manufacturies of this Kingdom.* The Rents fell prodigeouſly; and ſome Streets were almoſt without Inhabitants. But when our Legiſlators had prohibited the wearing of thoſe pernicious Commodities, all our Poor, Old as well as Young, both in City and Country, were employed. Many new Branches ſprung up and

flouriſhed extreamly. All our Streets became full of Inhabitants. The Rents raiſed gradually to about one Third. Many new Houſes have been Built, *&c.* *

Theſe were the happy Conſequences of the Prohibition of *Eaſt-India Silks*, and *Eaſt-India Callicoes*, notwithſtanding all the pretended Arguments *Dr. Davenant* had learnedly ſet forth againſt the Prohibition, in his *Eſſay on the* Eaſt-India *Trade*; not much unlike Mr. *Aſgill* in his *Brief Anſwer to a Brief State*, &c. For, as this Gentleman is perpetually begging the Queſtion, by taking, always, That for granted, which is the very thing in diſpute; and aſſigning as chief Cauſes, for the Badneſs of Trade, thoſe Things which are the leaſt; ſo, his Predeceſſor did likewiſe, at that time; which our Legiſlators ſaw through, as I hope they will now, with reſpect to Mr. *Aſgill's* Impoſitions and Miſrepreſentations. But to return.

As the overflowing of the aforeſaid *Eaſt-India* Commodities had laid waſte all the Advantages which accrued from that Law, and *that very many of the Manufacturers of this Nation were become exceſſively Burdenſome and Chargeable to their Reſpective Pariſhes, and others were thereby compelled to*

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* *This accounts fairly for that only Argument,* Mr. Aſgill *hath in his* Britiſh Merchant *No. I. of* the Rents Riſing and Building of new Houſes. *For, tho' the Weaving Trade is as bad as it can well be: Yet People do not turn off their Trade, nor leave their Habitations, before they ſee whether or no there will be a Remedy apply'd to their Grievances.*

ſeek for Employment in foreign Parts, as 'tis ſaid in the aboveſaid *Act*.

So likewiſe the overflowing of printed and ſtained Callicoes and Linnens, hath almoſt laid waſte thoſe happy Conſequences which have accrued from the *Prohibition Act*; in ſuch a Manner, that *many of the Manufacturers of this Nation are become exceſſively burdenſome and chargeable to their reſpective Pariſhes, and others* have been *thereby compelled to ſeek for Employment* at *Tankerville* in *France*, and elſewhere.

To conclude, As the Trading Part of this Nation is in as miſerable a Condition, as it was before the *Prohibition Act*; ſo the Weavers humbly hope, from the known Wiſdom and Juſtice of our Legiſlators, that a ſuitable Redreſs will be granted to their preſent Calamity; as it was to That Twenty Years ago.

F I N I S.

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